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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3495

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMB. LEARSON

FROM US LOSDEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS: DAILY REPORT FOR THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 190948

1. COMMITTEE I: COMMITTEE I CONTINUES TO BE TOTALLY DISRUPTED BY HANDFUL OF LDC EXTREMISTS, PARTICULARLY ARAB STATES. EVIDENCE OF THIS WAS SEEN FRIDAY WHEN FAIRLY ROUTINE STATEMENT BY C-1 CHAIRMAN ENGO, TO EFFECT THAT COMMITTEE MUST PUT REMAINING TIME TO GOOD USE, WAS UTILIZED AS BASIS FOR PERU, IRAQ, MEXICO AND TANZANIA TO SHARPLY ACCUSE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF INTRANSIGENCE. WHATEVER MECHANISM FOR NEGOTIATING IS DEVELOPED IN C-I IS QUICKLY OBSTRUCTED BY PROCEDURAL STALLING BY ARABS WHO APPEAR CLEARLY INTENT ON EFFECTIVELY BLOCKING ANY ABILITY OF COMMITTEE TO TAKE STEPS FORWARD. WE EXPECT CAUSE OF THIS ARAB NEGATIVISM IS TWO-FOLD. FIRST, OIL-PRODUCING STATES HAVE STATED PRIVATELY THAT THEY FEAR OIL MAY BE FOUND IN DEEP SEABEDS AND ACCORDINGLY WANT TO EXPAND COVERAGE OF ARTICLE 9 PRODUCTION CONTROLS TO HYDROCARBONS. SECOND, ARABS ARE OBVIOUSLY UNHAPPY WITH
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TREND IN C-II TOWARD BROAD MARGIN JURISDICTION FOR

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COASTAL STATES AND MAY BE HOPING TO BLOCK THAT
TREND WITH RESULT THAT OUTER MARGIN OIL RESOURCES WOULD
FALL UNDER AUTHORITY'S JURISDICTION. IF THIS RESULT CAN
BE OBTAINED, OIL-PRODUCERS WOULD WANT MAXIMUM CONTROL OVER
AUTHORITY'S POWERS VIS-A-VIS OIL PROCDUCTION AND MAY BE
STALLING COMMITTEE I TO ENSURE THAT THEY BOTH HAVE CONTROL
OVER NEGOTIATION AND PREVENT IT FROM MOVING TOO FAR TOWARDS
POSITIONS OF INDUSTRAILIZED COUNTRIES.

2. COMMITTEE II: DEADLOCK CONTINUES IN SMALL GROUP OVER
LEGAL STATUS OF ECONOMIC ZONE WITH TERRITORIALISTS MOUNTING
PRESSURE TO INCLUDE EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO A "ZONE OF
NATIONAL JURISDICTION" (PERU, BRAZIL, URUGUAY.) MODERATES
(CANADA, NORWAY, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA) COASTAL STATES
BUSY BEHIND SCENES PRESSING THEIR VIEW OF COMPROMISE FORMULAS.

3. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT: INFORMAL PLENARY CONSIDERED
ARTICLE 18, PARAGRAPH 2 OF PART IV. THERE WAS A CONCERTED
ATTACK, STARTED BY SPAIN, AGAINST THE EXEMPTION FROM
PART IV DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES OF DISPUTES
RELATING TO MILITARY ACTIVITIES. IN DEFENDING THE NEED
FOR THIS EXCEPTION, THE US WAS SUPPORTED ONLY BY THE
UKRAINIAN SSR. THE US HAS SIMILAR DIFFICULTY IN DE-
FENDING EXCEPTIONS RELATING TO SEA BOUNDARY DISPUTES
AND TO DISPUTES PENDING BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL.
END
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